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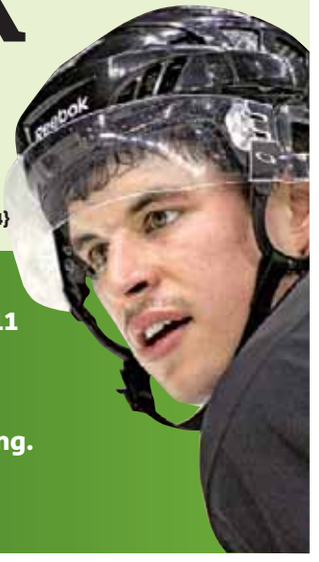

OTTAWA metro®

Tuesday, December 13, 2011
www.metronews.ca

News worth sharing.

Puppy. Power

▶ Veterinarian technician Terri-Lynne Scott holds a timid Bichon Frise called Piper. Piper was one of more than a dozen dogs that arrived at the Ottawa Humane Society Friday after being rescued in September from one of the largest puppy mills ever discovered in Canada.

JOE LOFARO/METRO

Rescued dogs up for adoption in Ottawa

The Ottawa Humane Society announced yesterday 18 of the almost 600 dogs rescued from the Paws "R" Us puppy mill near Lachute, Que. in September are in the capital and will likely be available for adoption by the end of the week. The two owners of Paws "R" Us pleaded guilty in November to 17 charges involving animal cruelty and were fined over $10,000 and are due back in court Feb. 17 for a sentencing hearing. To see more photos of the dogs, go to metronews.ca.

PSAC slams layoffs at fisheries department

◗ Cutting jobs shortsighted: PSAC ◗ Layoffs come less than two weeks before Christmas

At least 50 public-service positions in the Ottawa area will be cut as part of a strategic review at the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) said Monday.

Patty Ducharme, PSAC's national executive vice-president, said DFO's nationwide layoffs will affect about 175 of its members and about 25 are also getting pink slips from the Coast Guard.

The Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada, which represents the public service's scientists and professionals, said as many as 400 employees in both departments will be affected.

"We're getting layoff notices every day of the week now," said Ducharme. "These are people who protect an incredibly vital and important resource to Canadians right across this country.

Ducharme said some affected employees work on fish-stock enhancement and assessment programs.

"The consequences of these cuts is that there wouldn't be fisheries officers out there making sure people aren't overfishing," she said. "There wouldn't be people working in the hatchery program trying to preserve and rebuild fish stocks."

JOE LOFARO

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City committee backs Plasco deal

Full council to vote tomorrow
Company uses 'gasification' to turn waste into reusable material

JESSICA SMITH
@METRONEWS.CA

The city's environment committee approved a 20-year waste-to-electricity-conversion contract with Plasco yesterday by a vote of 7-1.

"The City of Ottawa has a garbage problem, as does almost every municipality in North America and Europe," committee chair Maria McRae said. "I can assure that the No.1 priority for the city will continue to be the three R's — reduce, reuse, recycle will also be our goals and we're committed to diverting as much waste as we can from the landfill."

Fears that the technology will discourage recycling and composting were voiced by members of the public who spoke against the deal and by Coun. Diane Holmes, the only committee member to vote nay.

Other delegates raised concerns about Plasco's emissions. Olga Speranskaya, co-chair of the International Persistent Organic Pollutants Elimination Network and a scientist who campaigns against the poor controls on chemicals in Russia, said she's concerned about dioxin levels in the emissions identified by Plasco.

"Human exposure to dioxins can result in different forms of cancer and other illnesses," she said. "Once dioxins enter the environment, they remain there for a long time."

Plasco CEO Rod Bryden denied that plant emissions will cause cancer.

"The suggestion there is any risk of that from the Plasco plant is completely incorrect and completely unfounded," he said, adding that the Ministry of the Environment backed up that view during the environmental screening of the demonstration plant.

JESSICA SMITH/METRO

▶ City manager Kent Kirkpatrick, left, listens as Plasco CEO Rod Bryden speaks at an environment committee meeting yesterday.

Mayor Jim Watson was not at the meeting but voiced support for the deal yesterday, saying it's good for the environment and extends the life of the landfill, saving the city "hundreds of millions of dollars."

"I just think that in the 21st century, if we continue to dig holes and bury garbage, we haven't really evolved very much as a species," he said.

Technology could help clean: CEO

Plasco's technology could be used to clean up existing landfills if someone is willing to pay for it, CEO Rod Bryden said.

Cities have already paid to dispose of waste in landfills, so there would have to be a compelling environmental or financial reason to justify paying for the cleanup, he said.

"Some of the energy is going up into the air in the form of methane every day, so there's less energy in it by the time you dig it up," he said. "And to maintain a landfill properly, you have a wedding-cake-style layer of soil with a layer of material, so it would be difficult to make it economical except for avoiding major environmental damage or recovering extremely valuable land. But it's not technically challenging."

JESSICA SMITH

CONTRIBUTED

▶ A view of Plasco's demonstration plant.

What if it fails, councillor asks

Coun. Diane Holmes says she's concerned the Plasco plant will interfere with recycling.

"I'm worried that giving this amount of garbage to Plasco will prevent us from doing the recycling we should be doing," she said. "We aren't being as aggressive as we should be at getting the recyclables out of the garbage stream. I think we're doing a slippery slope now, where it's just easier to give things to Plasco — should it work."

Holmes's other concern is that the technology could fail. Plasco's test facility operated for only 3,096 hours in three years, not on a consistent 24-hour basis.

Plasco and city staff say the contract is written so that if the technology fails, there is no financial risk to the city. JESSICA SMITH

1 news

Study: Toddlers are likely to experience a reaction to the first shot of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine, but serious reactions are rare. Scan code for story.

To scan 2D barcodes in Metro, download the free ScanLife app at 2dscan.com.

On the web

U.S. presidential hopeful Rick Perry's new campaign video has incited nearly 700 reply videos, many of which are parodies. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Mother, son hit by truck in Nepean

A 44-year-old woman and her 13-year-old son have been hospitalized after being struck by a truck while crossing a road in a residential area of Nepean.

Ottawa paramedics were called to the collision scene at the intersection of Meadowlands Drive and Tiverton Drive at 8:42 a.m. When they arrived, paramedics found the woman with shoulder, leg and neck injuries. She was alert and talking.

Her 13-year-old son was also struck by the same vehicle and sustained a minor head injury paramedics said.

Both are in stable condition. METRO

Child-porn, sex-assault charges laid

Police have charged a 41-year-old Ottawa man with child pornography and sexual assault after executing a search warrant Saturday.

Officers seized three computers and various digital media after the Internet child exploitation unit identified a man who was making child pornography and uploading it to the Internet.

The accused was charged with one count of making child pornography, one count of distributing child pornography, one count of possessing child pornography, one count of sexual interference, one count of invitation to sexual touching and one count of sexual assault. METRO

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New theatre part of bigger funding picture

Councillor who spearheaded proposal to expand Centrepointe says he was rebuffed three times

Late Nepean mayor dreamed of winning support for theatre

JOE LOFARO/METRO

From left, John Baird, Ontario minister of infrastructure, Bob Chiarelli, MPP for Ottawa West-Nepean and Mayor Jim Watson carefully raise a chandelier to celebrate the expansion of Centrepointe Theatre.

JOE LOFARO
@METRONEWS.CA

In lieu of hoisting champagne glasses, the politicians raised a sparkling chandelier at Centrepointe Theatre yesterday to celebrate the completion of more than 2,000 projects across Ontario through the Infrastructure Stimulus Fund.

Centrepointe is one of those projects. The theatre at Ben Franklin Place in Nepean was expanded earlier this year, thanks to $4-million contributions from the federal, provincial and municipal governments, for a total of $12 million.

Ottawa West-Nepean MP John Baird, Ontario infrastructure minister and Ottawa-West Nepean MPP Bob Chiarelli and Mayor Jim Watson showed off a new studio-theatre with a 253-seat capacity to accompany the existing one.

Centrepointe also boasts a new production centre, expanded loading dock, workshops, storage rooms, a catering kitchen, two large dressing rooms, a double green room for both theatres and other additions. Centrepointe, already the region's second-largest performing-arts venue before the expansion, has doubled in size.

Coun. Rick Chiarelli said he convinced Baird to sign off on the funding after the federal government declined three times.

"He really liked the economic-efficiency part of the whole proposal and he also liked the idea of completing Ben Franklin's dream," said Chiarelli. "It was sort of the one thing left undone from the Ben Franklin legacy and I wanted to make sure it happened."

Arts as a career

While previous infrastructure projects improved roads and transportation systems, Ottawa Mayor Jim Watson said arts and recreation infrastructure is equally important, especially for youth who want to pursue the arts as a career.

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It's official: We're out of Kyoto

New climate deal to be signed in 2015, and would kick in after 2020

Canada is pulling out of the world's only binding climate treaty.

Environment Minister Peter Kent says Canada is withdrawing from the Kyoto Protocol.

"We are invoking Canada's legal right to formally withdraw from Kyoto," Kent said outside the House of Commons.

"This decision formalizes what we've said since 2006, that we will not implement the Kyoto Protocol."

Canada signed Kyoto in the late 1990s, but neither the current Conservative government nor their Liberal predecessors met targets. Kent says the move saves Canada $14 billion in penalties for not achieving its Kyoto targets.

"The Harper government has imposed a death sentence on many of the world's most vulnerable populations by pulling out of Kyoto."
MIKE HUDEMA, GREENPEACE CANADA

Kent says he would not be surprised if other countries follow Canada in pulling out of Kyoto.

At the Durban talks, Canada joined Russia and Japan in refusing to sign on for a second round of Kyoto commitments.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bear. In Vancouver

▶ An officer, holding a tranquilizer gun, watches a black bear perched on top of a garbage truck in downtown Vancouver yesterday.

JAMES GEMMILL/VANCOUVER PUBLIC LIBRARY

Cub to be set free in the wild

It appears the black bear cub got trapped into the garbage canister in North Vancouver, and climbed on top of the bin when the vehicle came to a stop at a busy intersection in downtown Vancouver. The cub was tranquilized and taken to be released in the wild.

It's splitsville for 'gay penguin couple'

Buddy and Pedro, once one of Toronto's hottest "it" couples, have broken up amid pregnancy rumours and a budding relationship with what those on Team Pedro will undoubtedly call a femme fatale.

It only took Buddy 72 hours to bond with Farai, a female penguin he was matched with on Nov. 19, after being separated from Pedro. Handlers at the Toronto Zoo split up the pair out of concern the same-sex bond would hamper breeding efforts.

Pedro has yet to get lucky, but zoo officials say it's not for a lack of trying.

"Pedro is very ready to go, per se, but his prospective mate Thandiwey is a little shy," Tom Mason, the zoo's curator of birds and invertebrates, said yesterday.

"She's not quite ready to go yet but they're beginners, they're just starting life as a pair."

The bromance was doomed from the start, said Mason.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ African Penguins swim in their enclosure at the Toronto Zoo yesterday.

Web sensation

The story of the star-crossed birds took on a life of its own when the two African penguins, dubbed Toronto's "gay penguins," became an Internet sensation last month amid outrage over their pending separation.

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No burka during citizenship oath

It's a legal matter: Immigration minister Oath-takers must show entire face Rule takes effect immediately

Prospective Canadians are no longer allowed to wear veils while they utter the oath of citizenship, the federal government announced yesterday.

Immigration Minister Jason Kenney told a news conference in Montreal that new Canadians will have to remove any face-coverings, such as the Islamic niqab or burka, while they swear the oath of citizenship. The new rule, which requires oath-takers to show their entire face, takes effect immediately.

Kenney said it's not only a question of "deep principle" for someone to show their face while taking the oath in front of their fellow citizens; it's also a matter of legal concern.

"I don't know how we can verify that someone whose face is covered is actually taking the oath that the law requires of them," Kenney said.

"This is a public act of witness in front of your fellow citizens, in front of the law — and you should be willing to show who you are."

Kenney said he received complaints from citizens, MPs and citizenship judges to the effect that it's difficult to ensure individuals whose faces are covered are actually taking the oath.

He said those concerns prompted him to raise the issue during a recent meeting of citizenship judges in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Heated debate

- The location of the announcement was not without symbolism. Quebec has had heated debates in recent years over so-called "reasonable accommodation" — how much should Canada bend to accommodate newcomers.
- While in the rest of Canada, it's often raised by conservatives, in Quebec the issue is frequently raised by the left-leaning and nationalist Parti Quebecois.

France. Election

France's would-be presidential candidate Kenza Drider, who wears a face-covering veil, presents her manifesto at an improvised press conference in front of a Paris courthouse.

FRANCOIS MORI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Her presidential manifesto

Kenza Drider rattled off 30 mostly left-leaning proposals — including capping salaries and devaluing the euro — as well as her main cause, repealing the ban on wearing face-concealing niqabs in public.

Chain sticks to decision to pull ads

Lowe's is planning to stick by its decision to yank its ads from a reality TV show about American Muslims despite growing opposition the home improvement chain is facing.

Lowe's stopped running commercials during All-American Muslim after a conservative group emailed advertisers to ask them to stop advertising on the show. The group said the program, which follows the lives of Muslim families living in the Metro Detroit area, was "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

9,200 On Twitter, actor Kal Penn began directing people to a petition in support of the show. By yesterday afternoon, there were about 9,200 signatures.

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sears.ca

U.S. requests drone from Iran

CAROLYN KASTER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama is pressing his request that Iran return the U.S. surveillance drone captured by the country's armed forces.

Obama said he would not comment "on intelligence matters that are classified." But he said during a White House news conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki that the U.S. wants the top-secret aircraft back.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We have asked for it back. We'll see how the Iranians respond."
BARACK OBAMA, U.S. PRESIDENT

Saudi Arabia executes woman

Saudi authorities have executed a woman convicted of practising magic and sorcery. The Saudi Interior Ministry says in a statement the execution took place yesterday.

The London-based al-Hayat daily quoted Abdullah al-Mohsen, chief of religious police who arrested her, as saying she had tricked people into thinking she could treat illnesses, charging them $800 per session. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Syrians go on strike

- Protesters target ailing economy, regime supporters
- Government pushes ahead with municipal elections

UGARIT NEWS GROUP VIA APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ This image from amateur video made available by the Ugarit News group yesterday purports to show security forces in Daraa, Syria.

Syrians closed their businesses and kept children home from school yesterday as part of a general strike, a powerful show of civil disobedience to pressure President Bashar al-Assad to end his nine-month-old crackdown on a popular uprising.

The open-ended strike takes direct aim at the country's already ailing economy. It is designed to erode al-Assad's main base of support — the new and vibrant merchant classes who have benefited in recent years as the president opened up the economy.

If the economy continues to collapse, al-Assad could find himself with few allies inside the country, where calls are growing by the day for him to step down. The authoritarian president is already struggling under international isolation and suffocating sanctions.

It is difficult to gauge the strength of the strike because the regime has banned most foreign journalists and prevented local reporters from moving freely. But there were signs it was being widely observed in particular in centres of anti-government protest: the southern province of Daraa, the suburbs of the capital, Damascus, the northwestern region of Idlib and in the restive city of Homs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clashes continue

- **Activists said a new round** of clashes between Syrian troops and army defectors began on Sunday with a major battle in the south and spread to new areas yesterday, raising fears the conflict is spiralling toward civil war.
- **The British-based** Syrian Observatory for Human Rights says new clashes between soldiers and defectors were reported yesterday in Idlib in the north, and that fighting continued for a second day in southern Daraa province. Four members of the security forces were killed as a result of the clashes there, the Observatory said.
- **At least 16 people** were reported killed nationwide yesterday, most of them in Homs, according to various activist networks.

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Women still buying most of the gifts this year: Poll

- 80 per cent of households polled say women do the holiday shopping
- 43 per cent of women shop online, up from 34 per cent last year

HYOSUB SHIN/THE ATLANTA JOURNAL CONSTITUTION/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Women shop at a Toys R Us in Atlanta, Ga., on Nov. 24.

Santa is a woman.

That's according to BMO's 2011 Holiday Spending Outlook.

BMO says 80 per cent of households polled said the female head of family will do the majority of holiday shopping, and this year, more and more will do it online.

BMO's annual survey revealed a substantial increase in the number of women using the Internet to shop for gifts. The figure jumped to 43 per cent from 34 per cent last year. At 49 per cent, men are still somewhat more inclined than women to shop online — but the gap is narrowing.

The survey polled 1,508 Canadians and is considered accurate within plus or minus 2.5 per cent 19 times out of 20.

"There are a number of factors behind the increase in online shopping among Canadian women," said Su McVey, vice-president of BMO Bank of Montreal.

"The ability to quickly and easily research products and compare prices and even arrange for delivery at the click of a mouse or the touch of a key pad makes it a remarkably convenient approach for busy, budget-conscious and multi-tasking women," McVey said.

McVey noted that advances in technology such as Wi-Fi, smartphones and e-readers have helped spur this growth.

"People of all ages are becoming much more comfortable with the technology and with the security behind online shopping," said McVey.

Regionally, married people polled in Atlantic Canada were more likely to say the female head of household does the majority of shopping — 87 per cent.

Online shoppers who don't want to pay priority shipping fees should make their online purchases by or before Dec. 15, BMO said.

That's the date when most retailers, especially those offering free delivery, require your order if you want a guarantee that Santa's packages will arrive by Dec. 24.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
- 126.86 (11,907.89)	- $0.71¢ ($97.48¢ US)

Oil	Natural gas	Gold
- $1.64 US ($97.77 US)	$3.254 US (- 6.3¢ US)	$1,668.20 US (- 48.6 US)

Canada can prosper amid massive global debt, says Carney

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Mark Carney

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney says the advanced economies of the world are facing a massive challenge with debt, but Canada may be in a position to take advantage.

Speaking to a business group in Toronto, the central banker warned yesterday that a historic era of deleveraging — paying off debt — is being forced upon European countries and the U.S. The task is so large that Carney compares it to what occurred during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

"As a result of deleveraging, the global economy risks entering a prolonged period of deficient demand," Carney said. "If mishandled, it could lead to debt deflation and disorderly defaults, potentially triggering large transfers of wealth and social unrest."

Carney said that Canada's relative virtue throughout this era of deleveraging puts the country in a "privileged position."

"Our strong position gives us a window of opportunity to make the adjustments needed to continue to prosper in a deleveraging world."

Carney added Canadian companies in particular must seize the moment, before it disappears.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

WIRELESS SERVICES

Bell Mobility in hot seat over sports rights

The national telecommunications regulator is putting Bell Mobility in the penalty box for securing exclusive rights to hockey and football content for mobile devices.

The wireless phone company gave itself a significant competitive advantage by signing deals with the National Hockey League and National Football League, the CRTC ruled yesterday. "Canadians shouldn't be forced to subscribe to a wireless service from a specific company to access their favourite content," Konrad von Finckenstein, chairman of the CRTC, said in a statement.

The decision followed a complaint from Telus Communications last January after it failed to secure the rights, first from the two sports leagues and later from Bell.

The NHL content includes games and video highlights, while the NFL content includes primetime games and playoff games. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Airline sued for charging the disabled

Disabled travellers who had to pay extra for seats on Air Canada could be in line for compensation as part of a class-action lawsuit authorized in Quebec.

A judge has approved a suit against Air Canada on behalf of disabled Canadians who had to pay extra for seats over a three-year period from Dec. 5, 2005 to Dec. 5, 2008.

Quebec City law firm BGA Barristers & Solicitors LLP made the announcement public yesterday.

The suit covers disabled individuals and also those with a functional disability related to obesity who faced extra charges for seats adapted to their condition.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

$7M A policy that would exempt disabled passengers, with a medical certificate, from having to purchase an additional seat is estimated to cost Air Canada about $7 million.

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GETTING ALL WRAPPED UP IN THE HOLIDAYS

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO

For couples who intend to spend the holidays together, 'tis the season for family feuds and hurt feelings.

December is arguably the busiest time of the year, so when you move from being an "I" to a "we," this already-overscheduled month becomes even more complicated. With emotions running high, there can be all sorts of issues attached to deciding where and with whom to spend your yuletide time.

Do we commit to one set of parents? Divide our time between each other's family get-togethers? Try blending our families into one big (and potentially disastrous) celebration? Or do we split up and spend the holidays apart?

With all of the parental pressures and guilt-tripping the season brings, sometimes the most desirable course of action is to ditch everyone and spend December 25th alone together, eating Chinese food and watching a movie.

Married couples and those in long-term relationships can easily burn themselves out trying to fulfil calendars full of family commitments. Forget your holiday wish list, all you really want for Christmas is some extra time, or perhaps a couple of clones.

"...the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is 'endearing.'"

The unfortunate reality for adult children is that you will never really be able to please the numerous sets of parents, step-parents, in-laws and extended family members. In striving to meet everyone's expectations you'll stress yourself out and turn into an argumentative and unpleasant grinch.

But, hey, isn't that what the holidays are all about?

Deciding how you'll celebrate the season will ultimately depend on a variety of factors — religious beliefs, geography, work commitments, money — but if you want to spend the holidays with your significant other, you'll have to make some compromises.

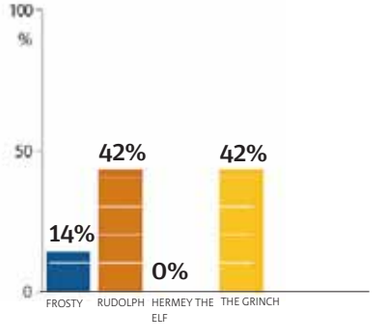
It's more than likely that at some point in your life you'll have to spend the holidays with a family that isn't your own. Yes, unfamiliar familial surroundings can be difficult: the turkey will never taste quite the same, and this other family's drunken uncle will seem terribly racist — on the other hand, your sloshed-by-noon-uncle is "endearing." They'll want to watch A Christmas Story even though you ALWAYS watch It's a Wonderful Life, and you'll be irrationally devastated.

Since every family has their own unique festive customs, you'll have to adjust your own expectations if you want to get through the holidays without weeping into your eggnog. But in letting go of some of your established traditions, you'll give yourself the opportunity to start making some new ones. And remember, it's actually a nice thing when too many people want to spend time with you.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Who would win in a holiday cartoon showdown?



Local tweets

@IsabelleThib: so f---ing tired from christmas shopping, now I have to do my physics essay :(

@Mostly_H4rmless: i was supposed to be reinforcing my appreciation of definite integrals and the fundamental theorem of calculus

@CharlesCrosbie: @ClaudiaPetrilli Indeed! Downloading lots of ragtime lately... It may lead me to finally learn how to play my piano! (Damn my baby hands!)

@__Leduc__: Just had a funnel cake now im #stuffed. #Eastsides.

@Conrad_Osei: The only problem i have with so much space between my exams, is that i am so confused on how to schedule my readings. #LuckyMansProblem

@TheLessLeague: If I could I would revisit my first days on twitter and retweet everything onward. Call it a retrospective on my twitter career. or #spam.

Daily Zoom

LEE GRISMER/WORLD WIDE FUND FOR NATURE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Oh, hello, gecko — nice to meet you

New creature found in Mekong every 2 days!

This psychedelic gecko is one of the latest species discovered on Hon Khoai island, Mau province, in southern Vietnam.

The gecko is among 208 new species described last year by scientists in the Mekong River region of Southeast Asia, according to the WWF.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mekong River

- The region spans Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and the southwestern Chinese province of Yunnan. The report reveals an average of one new species discovered every two days.
- 28 reptiles were newly discovered in 2010, including an all-female lizard in Vietnam that reproduces via cloning.

Despite findings many species are threatened

The Mekong's wildlife population is under threat from rapid, unsustainable development and climate change. One tragic indicator of the decline of biodiversity is the recent extinction of the Javan rhino in Vietnam, which was recently confirmed by WWF.

METRO

"Mekong governments have to stop thinking about biodiversity protection as a cost and recognize it as an investment to ensure long-term stability."

STUART CHAPMAN, CONSERVATION DIRECTOR OF WWF GREATER MEKONG

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Bird flies into action

Director Brad Bird takes the leap from family films into the explosive world of live-action entertainment with Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol How he adapted his technique

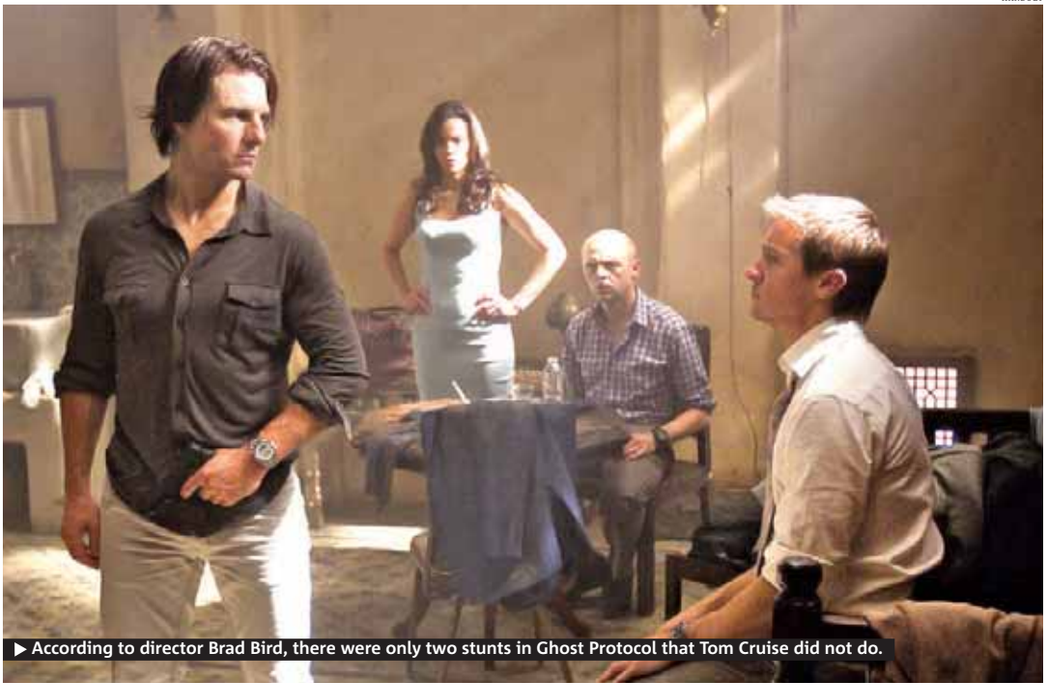
STEVE GOW
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Brad Bird was not the most obvious candidate to take over the reins of the Tom Cruise multimillion-dollar Mission: Impossible film franchise.

While the filmmaker's Oscar-winning background stands on its own, it is mostly comprised of not only animated entertainment but specifically family-oriented favourites like Ratatouille and The Incredibles.

Now with Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol about to hit IMAX theatres this Friday (it opens on regular theatres next Wednesday), Brad Bird discussed leaping from kiddy cinema to explosive live-action entertainment.

HANDOUT



According to director Brad Bird, there were only two stunts in Ghost Protocol that Tom Cruise did not do.

What was the biggest challenge of going from choreographing animation to live-action?

If I had gone from hand-held animation, which my first film, The Iron Giant, was to live-action, it would've been a bigger leap but the last two films I did, The Incredibles and Ratatouille, were dimensional; there was CGI so you could move the camera through space and you could light it like you would any film so I got very comfortable with that.

So it actually felt fairly natural to move to real people and things.

Certainly The Incredibles had its share of action too. What do you love about spy films?

They're sleek and they're exotic and fast and kind of explosive. They can go from very quiet suspense to all hell breaking loose just like that. This movie is definitely in that realm and that's one of the reasons that I wanted to do it.

I understand that Tom Cruise did all of his own stunts in this — true?

There's only two that he didn't do and in both of them the stuntman got hurt so he was very wise in not doing those two. But all of the ones on the Burj Khalifa (the tallest building in the world) where you see him climbing around, that's him. People are going to say, 'oh, that can't be him' but it's him.

Brad Bird talks Mission: Impossible

- **Bird on tourists posting photos of Tom Cruise hanging from the side of Dubai's Burj Khalifa during filming:**
"At first we were mad because the very first stuff (we shot went) online and we were like 'We can't show this stuff before the movie comes out'. But then we thought this proves that he's there, he's not a special effect."

- **Bird on Ghost Protocol being the biggest of the Mission: Impossible franchise:**
"I don't think it's the most expensive but it is the biggest. We had to be very clever with how we did things but it is the biggest and it's enormous – it was a challenge to do absolutely."

2 scene

Box office

Meryl Streep may be considered one of the finest actresses around, yet she says she believed her career was over 20 years ago. Streep, now 62, tells Vogue magazine she was offered three different roles to play a witch after turning 40. She believed it meant women in her age group were "grotesque on some level." Streep graces the January cover of Vogue magazine for the first time.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clooney's Descendants named best film by LA critics; Fassbender wins best-actor prize

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DVD Releases

Rise of the Planet of the Apes
Genre: Action
Director: Rupert Wyatt
Stars: James Franco, Andy Serkis, Freido Pinto

The world needs another Planet of the Apes movie like a circus acrobat needs a banana peel. After five original films, two TV spin-offs and Tim Burton's failed 2001 "reimagining," the franchise has fleas. Yet Rise of the Planet of the Apes defies expectations (and fears), and two words explain why: Andy Serkis. The British magician behind the digital sorcery of Gollum and King Kong gives his finest performance yet as Caesar, the brainy chimp who leads a primate revolution against enslaving humans. Serkis commands the screen, combining his malleable features with the motion-capture technology he excels at. His Caesar conveys more emotion than any of the human characters. Director Rupert Wyatt's version, scripted by Rick Jaffa and Amanda Silver (who previously teamed for The Relic), pays tribute to the original series without being bound by it. Not surprisingly, that story's object lesson about how slavery is all in the eye of the beholder doesn't resonate as strongly now as it did in the 1960s. PETER HOWELL

Kung Fu Panda 2
Genre: Animation
Director: Jennifer Yu Nelson
Stars: Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Jackie Chan

Director Jennifer Yuh Nelson's animated comedy sequel comedy manages to have its fortune cookie and eat it, too, since it delivers both more action and fireworks (literally), while at the same time filling in the tragic back story of Po, the accidental panda warrior voiced by Jack Black.

This is a franchise that already benefits from glorious design. Panda 2's richly painted Chinese landscapes are a refreshing change from the usual sci-fi pursuits. In the first movie, Po's task was to learn martial arts from Master Shifu (voiced by Dustin Hoffman). This time out, Po must put his new skills to work battling evil peacock Lord Shen (Gary Oldman). Before you can say peacock feathers, Po reteams with his Furious Five buddies: Tigress (Angelina Jolie), Monkey (Jackie Chan), Mantis (Seth Rogen), Viper (Lucy Liu) and Crane (David Cross) to stop Shen. PETER HOWELL

Running with rodents

Jason Lee talks about the surreal experience of talking to stuffed animals and bean bags for the new Alvin and the Chipmunks film

NED EHRBAR
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN HOLLYWOOD

Jason Lee was more than happy to reprise his role as Dave Seville, the human minder and manager to a furry pop trio in Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked. But the third film in the franchise provided some new challenges for the actor — namely filming on a Carnival cruise ship. "I mean, we were only there for a week, but my idea of a getaway is not being on a cruise ship with thousands of people, personally," Lee says.

"You eat all day and all night, and you're out at sea. It's quite surreal, the cruise thing."

While Lee admits the process has gotten easier with the first two Chipmunks films under his belt, there's a surreality to working with virtual characters that never really goes away.

"It's always a bit surreal when you're looking at pieces of tape and stuffed animals and tan beanbags," he says, adding that more dramatic scenes — like an emotional reunion with his furry kids — can be especially jarring.

HANDOUT

▶ Jason Lee reprises his role as chipmunk manager Dave Seville in Chipwrecked.

"'Theodore, I miss you!' And it's a beanbag in your hand. It's kind of strange."

Not only is it kind of strange, but being the lone human wrangling six unruly critters — Alvin, Simon and Theodore as well as their female counterparts, the Chipettes — can add some extra layers of concentration for an actor — especially when it comes to remembering where they're standing.

"The running action, looking for the Chipmunks, grabbing them and that kind of stuff" poses the biggest challenges, Lee says. "It's the eye-line marks. When the volcano is erupting and you have to yell really loud and stuff is falling down, you're trying to remember which one is Jeanette. That stuff gets a little tricky, at times."

But despite the challenges of making a movie with animated chipmunks, Lee is thrilled to have some entries on his resumé for his children to enjoy.

"I always kind of set out to just work as an actor and try to do as many different things as I possibly could — and not be too selective or not be too careful," he says.

"I think just working is fun. I like that I've done kids' stuff, I like that I've done more dramatic stuff, I like that I did all the Kevin Smith stuff. I like that I've bounced around a lot.

"But certainly as a dad, it's nice to have movies that my kids can watch, because they certainly aren't watching Chasing Amy."

Heading back to television

While former professional skateboarder Jason Lee got his start as an actor in films — mostly for Kevin Smith — it was his TV work that made him a star, especially on the four-year run of My Name is Earl. But while his most recent small-screen gig, the cable show Memphis Beat, didn't last, he's eager to get back on TV. "I'm actually developing some things now, and that's been a lot of fun," he says. "I've been meeting with writers and trying to get some things on the air, as a producer and as an actor. But, in the meantime, I've been having a lot of fun on [the sitcom] Up All Night. That's been a good show to be working on."

From Goth to glam

Pauley Perrette is a lot like her NCIS character Abby

It figures that Pauley Perrette would excel playing forensic scientist Abby Sciuto, the Goth lab rat on CBS' crime procedural, NCIS.

On the job in her high-tech lair, Abby is an information magnet and a bloodhound for clues to help crack the latest case with a link to the Navy or Marine Corps. And in the process, she's brainy, beautiful, charmingly quirky and totally gung-ho — which is to say, a lot like Pauley Perrette.

In its ninth season, NCIS (which airs today at 9 p.m. EST) remains a smash hit, averaging 20 million viewers a week. And even among its crazy-popular ensemble (including Mark Harmon, Michael Weatherly, Cote de Pablo, Sean Murray, David McCallum and Rocky Carroll), Perrette is a standout, having landed at the top of a recent Q Score roster measuring TV stars' fame and likability among viewers. But in person, as herself, Perrette can even upstage her performance as Abby. Hear her jazzed accounts of a life that led from her Atlanta upbringing to a role on one of TV's hottest shows: She describes her early-on aspirations: "to work with animals, be in a rock 'n' roll band or be an FBI agent."

She recounts her scramble in New York, where she moved to study at John Jay School of Criminal Science but worked several jobs at once to make ends meet. And she reports how, along the way, she broke into show biz: "A kid in coat-check told me, 'I know this director who would really like you.' I started booking commercials like craaazy."

Perrette is an unapologetic cheerleader for her show — and her character. "I'm the biggest Abby Sciuto fan on planet Earth," she announces. "I mean, I didn't invent her. I just have the honour of playing her. She fascinates me."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KRISTIAN DOWLING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

▶ Pauley Perrette is forensic scientist Abby Sciuto in NCIS.

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Hulk Hogan is not a homosexual, OK?

Wrestler grappling with allegations from ex-wife Claims they are untrue

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Hulk Hogan, who filed a defamation suit against ex-wife Linda Bollea, says he's just trying to defend his reputation.

"After the four-year crazy divorce I thought I'd heard everything I could hear in the courtroom," the wrestling star tells Us Weekly.

"Then all of a sudden she says I abused her, that I was violent. She told everybody that I was a homosexual."

ALL PHOTOS BY GETTY IMAGES

▶ Hulk Hogan

Hogan adds that his real problem with Bollea's accusations is that they aren't accurate.

"If any of that was true, I would admit it, and (if) I was a homosexual I would embrace it," he says.

"If you're going to say I'm something that I'm not to try to ruin my career and my livelihood, I have to answer her back."

Look, Linda. Just because at one point in his life, your ex-husband loved Spandex, tan skin, Fu Manchus, rippling muscles, had a huge boa scarf collection, ripped his shirt off at the drop of a hat and pinned sweaty men to the ground for a living, does not mean he was in the closet while you were married.

If it were someone else's husband, however, I'd be a tad worried.

Celebrity tweets

@JohnCleese

Nearly the end of another gruelling week of talking about myself. It's a good job that I'm so interesting...

@juliebenz

whenever someone says "we're only giving gifts to the kids this holiday season" my inner child screams "NO! I want presents too!!"

@russellcrowe

90 sweaty minutes in the gym. Some days you love it, some you hate it. Today was all love.

@SarahKSilverman

My dog has to think the elevator's a time machine, right? There's no other possible explanation.

A theft-filled weekend for Lindsay Lohan

Lindsay Lohan had a drama-filled weekend, and not just because of her leaked Playboy spread.

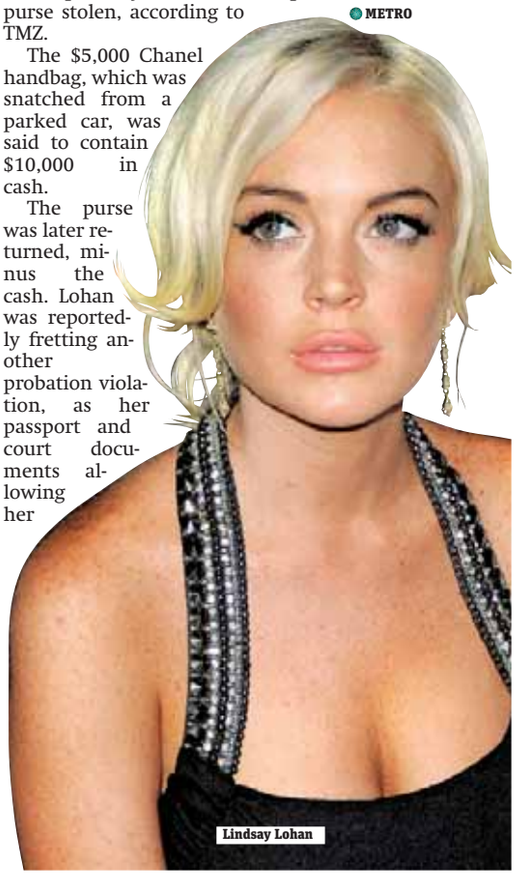
While partying in Hawaii, the troubled starlet reportedly had her purse stolen, according to TMZ.

The $5,000 Chanel handbag, which was snatched from a parked car, was said to contain $10,000 in cash.

The purse was later returned, minus the cash. Lohan was reportedly fretting another probation violation, as her passport and court documents allowing her to travel were also in the purse, but were returned safely.

Which leads us to a very pressing, unrelated question: Do drug dealers accept traveller's checks?

METRO



Lindsay Lohan

Kutcher's resolutions are set

Ashton Kutcher is looking to get a jump on his New Year's resolutions, and given the year he's had it's not such a surprise.

"I'm gonna do my resolution in December this year," he says in a Warner Bros. Studio interview.

"I'm resoluting for December so that when I come to January, and everybody else is having to go through the grind, I'm already ahead of it, I've already done it. It's like taking the PSATs. I'm just trying to stay ahead of the curve. There is a curve."

METRO

▶ Ashton Kutcher

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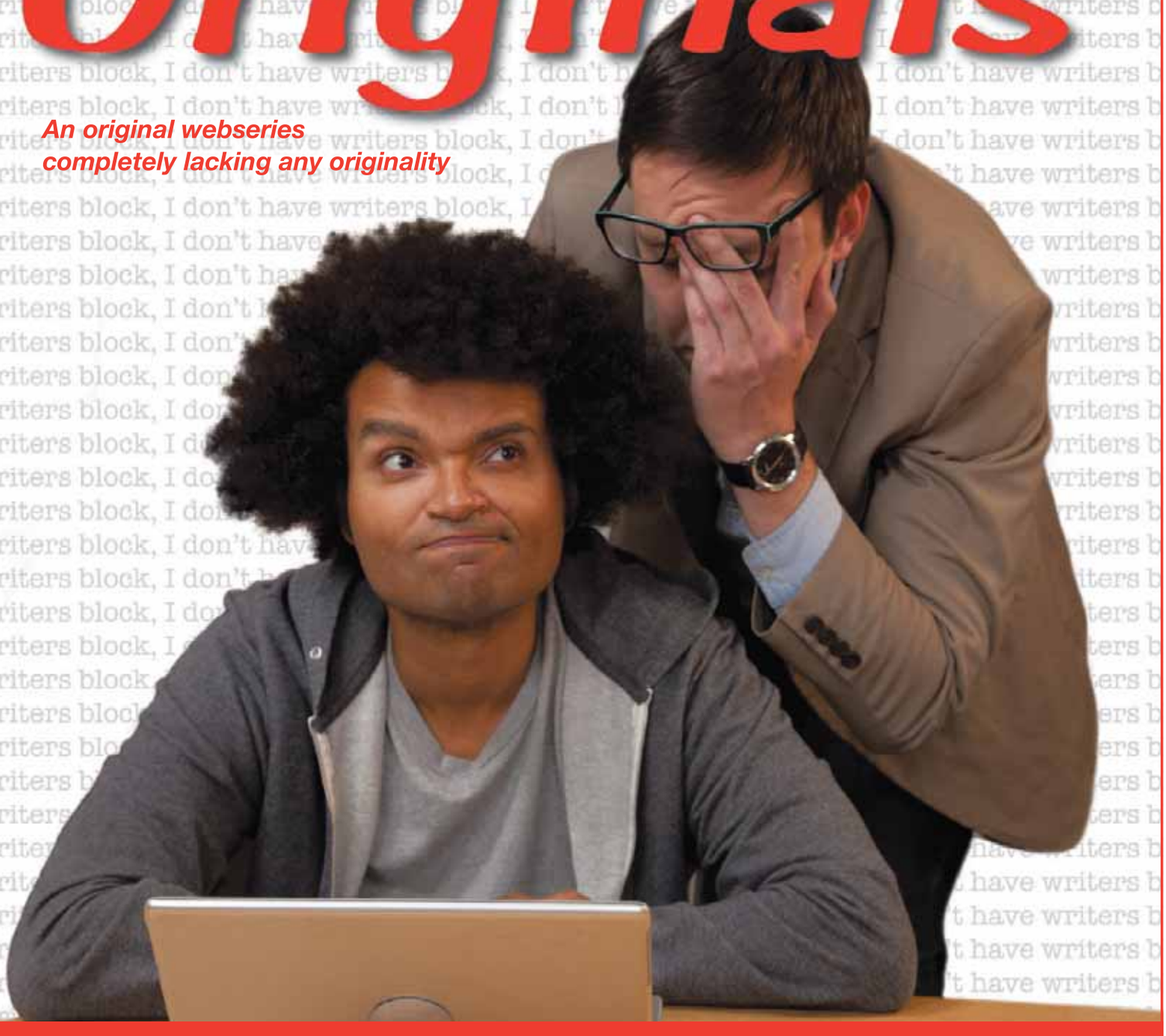


In today's episode..."The Situation"

As the cast gets a chance to strut their stuff New Jersey style, Jason attempts to finally connect with Carina. The question is will there be sparks or a nasty shock?

New episodes post every Tuesday and Thursday. Watch at www.facebook.com/OriginalsTheSeries

3 life

Babies are skeptics

New study shows that even infants can detect when you're acting shady They'll start to tune you out So remember: just because they're little, doesn't mean they aren't on to you

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

▶ Don't confuse their cuteness — babies can tell when your actions don't add up.

You can't trick babies. They'll distrust you.

Researchers in psychology at Concordia University in Montreal have found that infants just over a year old can already get a bead on who is reliable and who is unreliable. The babies will quickly start ignoring cues from those who are unreliable.

"Even babies detect when someone's behaviour is not conventional," says Diane Poulin-Dubois, a professor of psychology at Concordia University. "It seems that they then turn off the 'learning switch' that typically makes them learn from that person."

Learning

Babies learn from older humans. But would they copy a robot?

Robots A team of researchers from the University of Washington found babies will imitate a robot if they have previously seen the robot playing with someone. Turns out, it's more important to babies that robots are sociable than that they look human.

Poulin-Dubois and colleagues conducted a study with 60 babies between 13 and 16 months of age.

The wee ones were divided into two groups — those with a reliable adult and those with an unreliable adult — and shown tasks they could mimic. In the first task, testers looked inside a container and expressed excitement and delight before handing the container to the baby.

In the reliable group, there was a toy inside. In the unreliable group, the container was empty. This was repeated several times.

For the second task, the same adult showed the babies a touch-on light. The tester placed it on a desk and switched it on by leaning forward and using the forehead.

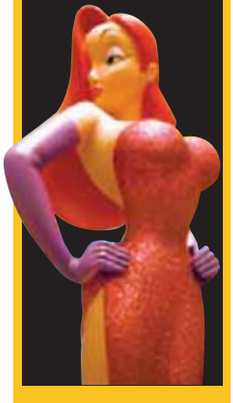
This was repeated three times before passing the light to the infant. Infants who had been tricked in the first experiment were far less likely to imitate the adult. Over two attempts, 34 per cent of infants in the unreliable condition mimicked the adult, versus 61 per cent of infants in the reliable condition.

"Babies are setting down the groundwork for a lifelong skill — remaining vigilant about who is an expert and who is not," says Poulin-Dubois.

The study was published in the journal Infant Behaviour and Development.

Trends

Twenty-two-year-old Russian Kristina Rei thought her 'thin' lips made her unpretty, so she decided to spend $5,000 (around 100 injections) in order have the pillow lips of cartoon character Jessica Rabbit. The nail technician is admitting she has an addiction, but this hasn't put her off considering another round of the $55, 'painful' injections.
METRO



Born smaller than soda cans, tiniest babies are growing up healthy

Best Health Minute

BONNIE MUNDAY, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, BEST HEALTH MAGAZINE

Eat, Think and Be Merry In the December issue of Best Health, our registered dietitian columnist Sue Mah put together some excellent tips for navigating the holiday events and their appetizer trays and buffet tables. A big part of it, she says, is eating mindfully — that is, really taking time to focus on what you eat, and more importantly, how you eat. Here are a few ways.

1. Do a walkabout
Before you even put a single piece of food on your plate, take a stroll around the buffet table and check out all of the options. Mentally classify them as 'must try' or 'can do without them today.' On your plate, put a few bites of a small portion of the 'must try' foods — making sure there are two types of vegetables — plus one 'must try' dessert.

2. Chat
After your first plate of food, you may feel like going back for seconds. Instead, sit back and take a planned break to catch up with friends. It takes about 20 minutes for your stomach to tell your brain you're full. After 20 minutes, ask yourself if you're really still hungry.

3. Keep your distance
Avoid standing near the party nibbles unless you have incredible willpower. When food is easily within reach, chances are you'll pick up a bite or two, or three. Let's say that two hors-d'oeuvres have 100 calories. By the time you've eaten a few, you have had the equivalent of a small meal.

Get 5 more tips in the December issue of Best Health, on newsstands now. And find our roundup of actual-size party snacks, along with their calories and fat grams. It may just help you get through party season with no added pounds. For example, can you guess what's in one of those mini quiches?
A. 50 calories and 1 gram of fat.
B. 65 calories and 3 grams of fat.
C. 80 calories and 6 grams of fat.

The answer is C. Those little party snacks can really add up.

TO CLAIM YOUR FREE ISSUE OF BEST HEALTH, GO TO BESTHEALTHMAG.CA/METRONEWS

4 Fun gifts for the fit and fabulous

- Gifts make people feel good. But feel-good gifts — even more so
- In order to make your shopping stress free, we selected some key picks to make your loved ones feel healthy and happy in the new year

TEXT **ROMINA MCGUINNESS, METRO WORLD NEWS**

1 ITCH-FREE UNDIES

BOPEEPS: French knickers and bralette

Sexy, this clings to your curves in the most flattering way but the nylon and spandex fabric is so stretchy and strong it will feel as if you have nothing on. It's the perfect set to wear on long haul flights or a Pilates class.

2 COSY FEET

CONVERSE: Star Player

These wooly high tops will keep your feet toasty and warm this season, even if you walk around for hours.

3 FOR THE TREADMILL

GRIFFIN Slap Flexible Wristband and iPod Nano 6G

The silicone frame and flexible spring steel band secures your iPod so it won't fall to the ground and crack, even as you bounce up and down on the treadmill and clock up the miles.

Wrist band: $24.99
Nano 6G: $49
griffintechnology.com, apple.com

4 SAFE AND SPEEDY CYCLE

SAWAKO HURUNO: Leopard print bike helmet

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SANTA CLAUS IS COMING TO TOWN!

(AND HE TOOK TIME TO TALK WITH HIS FRIENDS AT THE DENTAL OFFICE!!)

It is hard to imagine that at this busy time of year, Santa could fit time into his busy schedule to visit the dentist! But here he is, taking time away from checking the "naughty and nice" lists, overseeing last minute gift and decoration prep and getting that final tune-up on his sleigh!

We were also wondering how he could find the time to drop in for an appointment with all the work he has to do! So we asked him.

"Ho, ho, ho!" he replied. "How could I **not** visit all the good little girls and boys at my dental office? This is a very important time for my teeth. With all the cookies and milk I will be having in such a short period of time, I wanted to be certain that my teeth are ready for all that sugar!" he chortled.

Of course, Santa will tell you that **it is not enough to look after your teeth just for the Holiday Season!**

"No, no, no!" he laughed. **"Taking good care of your teeth is a year round responsibility!** To keep my smile looking its best, I brush at least twice a day and floss at least once. And I visit my dentist at least twice a year…sometimes more if I need to.

Dr. Peter Georgopoulos
Dental Surgeon

I also like keeping in touch with my friends at www.rideaudental.ca for great oral health tips year round too!"

"And just as importantly, I make sure I **eat a good diet,** full of lots of fresh fruits and vegetables. It is not always easy to get fresh foods like that at the North Pole. But it is sure worth the effort. I find a good diet really helps keep my teeth strong and my gums healthy!"

A good diet? Santa? With all those cookies?

Santa chuckled. "Yes, it is hard to believe. But really, it is only the one day a year I do this. The rest of the year, **I keep sugar to a minimum** and focus on my health. You have to be strong and in good shape to travel across the world in just one night!"

"Don't let my 'bowl full of jelly' belly fool you!" he continued. "I take healthy living seriously. And for me, that includes looking after my oral health! Afterall, **an unhealthy mouth usually means an unhealthy body!"**

So, we asked Santa if he had any final tips for everyone before he went back to preparing for the Big Day!

"Just look after yourselves," he winked. "That means love yourselves and each other. It is an important part of the Spirit of the Season! The more you do that, the happier you will be. All that love, and those healthy teeth, will look great in the smiles of your Holiday photos!"

"Because," Santa continued, "living the Spirit of the Season year round is a healthy habit…and healthier habits lead to healthier lives.

Dr. Peter Georgopoulos
- Dental Surgeon

Free public presentations by pharmacists can help avoid trips to the emergency room

Trained pharmacists are available in communities across Ontario to provide seniors groups with important information about managing medications and help them take control of their health.

Safe Meds for Seniors presentations are offered in several languages.

To book a presentation for your group or for more information, call **1-877-341-0788** ext. 2252 or email **safemedsseniors@opatoday.com**

Topics include:

- medication risks and side effects
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- over-the-counter medications
- herbal remedies
- compliance aids

Ontario Pharmacists' Association

www.opatoday.com

Funded by the Government of Ontario.

The Ontario Pharmacists' Association is the professional association representing the views and interests of more than 12,500 pharmacists and pharmacists-in-training across the province. We work to inspire excellence in the profession and practice of pharmacy, and to promote wellness for patients.

Real world applications

Video game helps research into Alzheimer's, diabetes and cancer

A team of McGill University researchers has come up with a way to make playing video games an entirely productive pursuit.

Computer scientist Jerome Waldispuhl, along with collaborator Mathieu Blanchette, developed a video game similar to the popular puzzle game Tetris — except there's more to it than just stacking blocks.

The game, called Phylo, involves arranging sequences of coloured shapes that represent human DNA.

By analyzing the DNA sequences, scientists are able to gain new insight into the genetic basis of diseases like Alzheimer's, diabetes and cancer.

Online

Popular game

Registered The game has enjoyed some popularity, with more than 17,000 people registering online since its November 2010 launch.

"Originally, I think a lot of people came because they are interested in participating in something that contributes to science," Waldispuhl said in an interview.

"But the goal is really to expand that to casual players."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Yoga pose.
Bakasana: crane pose

DSALAS

1 Squat down with your inner feet a few inches apart keeping your heels on the floor. Separate your knees wider than your hips and lean the torso forward, between the inner thighs. Stretch your arms forward then bend your elbows; place your hands on the floor and the backs of the upper arms against the shins.

2 Snuggle your inner thighs against the sides of your torso and the shins into your armpits and slide the upper arms down as low onto to the shine as possible. Lift up onto the balls of your feet and learn forward even more, taking the weight of the torso onto the backs of the upper arms.

3 Press your hands against the back torso, pushing the back up toward the ceiling as you press the backs of the upper arms down. Clasp the hands and press the arms down on the support as you lift the thighs toward the ceiling. If you want to go further, squeeze the legs against the arms press the inner hands firmly to the floor and on an inhale, straighten the elbows. Keep the head in a neutral position with your eyes looking to the floor.

STEPHANIE KNUTSSON, AT BODYISM YOGA WWW.BODYISM.COM

Thoughts on ... Presence

LET IT PASS. How often are you really present? I don't mean just there in the flesh, I mean there with your heart and soul and eyes and everything that you are and more.

The art of presence is being able to watch your thoughts as an observer. These thoughts are like clouds that obscure the clear blue sky, and yet they are not the sky. Let them pass like clouds in the sky.

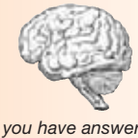
When lost in habitual thinking and feeling it pulls you away from the moment and the people you want to connect with. Being present is often the most valuable gift you can give yourself and others.

NATASHA DERN IS THE HOST OF THE BUDDHA LOUNGE RADIO SHOW.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DEPRESSION RESEARCH

Psychiatrists at the Ottawa Psychopharmacology Clinic are currently conducting a research study of an investigational medication for depression. The purpose of the study is to further our knowledge about the possible treatment of depression. Study duration is 10 weeks in total. Included are a physical exam, blood tests and a psychiatric interview. All information provided will be treated in strictest confidence. To volunteer, you must be 18-75 of age, not currently in psychiatric treatment (unless you are being referred by your treating doctor), have no drug or alcohol problems and be in generally good physical health.

	YES	NO
I am feeling sad and depressed	☐	☐
I am having difficulty sleeping	☐	☐
I am feeling low in energy and slowed down	☐	☐
My appetite has changed	☐	☐
I am experiencing feelings of guilt	☐	☐
I have lost interest in work and pleasurable activities	☐	☐
I feel hopeless about the future	☐	☐
I feel tense and anxious	☐	☐
I am having difficulty making decisions	☐	☐
I am having trouble concentrating	☐	☐



Ottawa Psychopharmacology Clinic
Smyth Medical Centre

If you have answered YES to five or more of these statements and have felt poorly for the past month, you may be suffering from depression. To be evaluated for this program please call, any time (24 hours), leave your name and phone number on our confidential voice mail:

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THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Chocolate Peanut Butter Covered Apples

Preparation:

1. In a small saucepan over medium-low, heat cream and peanut butter until bubbling. Remove pan from heat and add chocolate bits. Stir until completely smooth. Set aside to cool for 10 minutes.
2. From bottom, push a pop stick up into core of each apple. The stick should go deep enough to be sturdy, but leave enough exposed to serve as a handle.
3. Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Place peanuts in bowls, if using.
4. One at a time, using sticks as handles, dip apples in chocolate mixture. Use a spoon to scoop up extra chocolate and pour over apples to help coat sides. Allow extra chocolate to drip back into pan. Dip coated apples into nuts. Stand apples, stick in air, on lined baking sheet. Refrigerate until firm.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ingredients:

- 90 ml (3 oz) heavy cream
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) creamy peanut butter
- 175 g (6 oz) bittersweet chocolate bits
- 4 apples (any variety)
- 4 wooden pop sticks
- Chopped salted peanuts (optional)

That's a mighty good sausage

For a hearty lunch, Sausage Kitchen offers a variety of tasty European eats

LUNCH RUSH

SHARI GOODMAN
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

SHARI GOODMAN

Sampler's lunch: sausage, perogies, sauerkraut, coleslaw and Hungarian fries.

Sausage Kitchen is a typical deli with a European accent offering a small selection of grocery items, deli meats and lunch specials. Shelves are lined with imported German chocolate bars, special mustards and other unusual condiments.

At the deli counter, I ordered the sampler's lunch special: a sausage, three perogies, sauerkraut, coleslaw, Hungarian fries and a drink. It was a hefty lunch, fit for a big appetite.

The Cajun sausage had personality. Its spice demanded attention, but the overall bite was pleasant. Sandwiched between a freshly baked bun, this sausage was meaty but juicy.

On the side, I was intrigued by the waffle-cut fries doused with Paprika and served with slices of sausage. It was addictive and interesting.

The three boiled perogies were homemade and fresh, filled with cheddar cheese and served with some fried onions.

There is a counter along the window at which you can stand and devour your lunch purchase. For a quick, hearty lunch, Sausage Kitchen satisfies.

Sausage Kitchen
5 Byward Market Square
613-241-6358
cafeshu.com
Reservations: No
Quick solo lunch: Yes
Social lunch: No
Client negotiations: No
Co-worker lunch: No
Price range: $
Rating: 4 out of 5

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THE DRUNK-DRIVING ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLESMACPHERSON.COM

As a hostess, how do I deal with drinking and driving for my guests at my Christmas party?
Nervous hostess

ISTOCK

▶ This guy is doing the right thing. There's a drink in his hand, so therefore the keys should not be.

Dear Nervous Hostess,

Good on you for asking the important question! I don't need to tell readers the importance of this subject. I personally think it is just as delicate a subject no matter who this concerns. As a butler I have had to deal with this on several occasions.

Firstly, try to be prepared ahead of time. Suggest a designated driver at your event (this person can drive numerous guests home as needed) and/or have some cash on hand to send someone home by taxi if required.

After doing some research, the auto insurance website progressive.com had some great suggestions:

1. If the person is a close friend, try to use a soft, calm approach at first. Suggest that he's had too much to drink and it would be better to let someone else drive or to take a cab.
2. Be calm.
3. Try to make it sound like you are doing them a favour.
4. If the person is somebody you don't know well, speak to his friends and have them make an attempt to persuade him to hand over the keys. Usually, he will listen.
5. If the person is a good friend, spouse or significant other, tell him that if he insists on driving, you are not going with him. Tell him that you will call someone else for a ride, take a cab or walk.
6. Locate the person's keys while he is preoccupied and take them away.

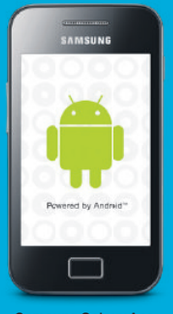
Most likely, he will think he's lost his keys and will be forced to find another mode of transportation.

If possible, avoid embarrassing the person or being confrontational.

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA.

Hurry, before we put this SALE on ice.

Get up to $50 off select smartphones. + Get a $50 bonus gift with all smartphones.[1]



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YEAR END TAX TIPS

FUN AND FRUGAL

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

2011 is coming to an end and it's time to maximize your personal tax situation before ringing in the New Year. Avoid giving Ebenezer Scrooge more tax than you need to.

First, determine your taxable income for 2011. If you cashed in RRSPs, sold an investment property, received a bonus or pay-out from an employer, your income will be different from your regular salary.

If you collected Employment Insurance (EI) and its associated benefits, tax withheld from EI is typically insufficient to cover your annual tax liability.

Don't get caught off guard by a major tax bill this spring. Meet with a tax advisor now to strategize ways to reduce your taxes. For the majority of Canadians, the most powerful way to reduce taxes is to contribute to an RRSP.

Second, the markets were a roller coaster in 2011 and many people are facing capital losses on their investments. Review your portfolio with a financial advisor to determine if you'd benefit from taking a loss or cashing in a gain.

Third, give money by December 31, 2011 and save big! If you give more than $200 you'll receive a 29 per cent federal credit instead of the 15 per cent credit for donations under $200. Donations also receive provincial credits.

Don't wait until the last day of 2011 to make an appointment with your financial advisor. Exploring ways to save on 2011 taxes now could save you a hefty tax bill next spring.

FOR LESLEY SCORGIE'S FULL COLUMN VISIT METRONEWS.CA

Revel in small pleasures

ON MONEY

ALISON GRIFFITHS
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Taking a break, as I've just done for the past two weeks, is one of the hardest things about being a freelance writer and broadcaster. Anyone who is self-employed will nod in agreement.

For one thing, it's hard to turn down work — you don't know when the next job will come along or if a regular gig suddenly disappears.

The problem with never turning down work is that you rarely stop to smell the roses. While many of us in this situation love what we do, work should give us the opportunity to enjoy our lives.

Whether it's roses that excite you, sports, crafts or travel, our other interests are what feed our souls and keep us balanced in troubled times.

Recently, I've been stewing over the way a publication I've worked with for years has treated me. I wanted to rage and complain. Instead, I went for a run in the woods with my dogs and gloried in their enthusiasm. I'm still upset but my non-work interests helped ameliorate the blow.

After earning your paycheque, if you can do something that makes you happy or even just content, then the work has been worthwhile.

While I was off I took a friend to a rehab session after his knee replacement. I saved him a couple of hours travel time and had a nice visit. And I had a long phone conversation with another old friend whose uncle had recently died and she was trying to sort out his estate. The best part was enjoying the moment — seizing it in fact.

ISTOCK

▶ Alison's money rule: Earning money is important but not if you don't enjoy life outside work.

I also tried to revel in life's mundane routines, which often pass in a blur but can actually be pleasurable if you focus on them.

I cleared out some clutter, listened to a neighbour complain about his health problems, raked some leaves and hung up bungee cords that were in a tangled pile. Though I'm sorry to say the enjoyable routine magic didn't work with vacuuming.

It is the season of resolutions but rather than come up with things you should do or do better, direct your thoughts to your work and non-work life. Make the most out of each as best you can and feel good about the small things.

ALISON GRIFFITHS IS THE AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK COUNT ON YOURSELF: TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR MONEY. REACH HER AT ALISONGRIFFITHS.CA OR GRIFFITHS.ALISON@GMAIL.COM.

6 most shoplifted items of the holiday season

As if this time of year wasn't stressful enough for retailers
'Tis the season for stealing filet mignon and AXE

The time of year sees plenty of merchandise fly off the shelves, whether it's paid for or not.

Scores of shoppers will pass through the doors of countless retailers, but one in 11 of them will walk out for something they swiped with a five-finger discount, according to the National Association of Shoplifting Prevention in the U.S.

Ad Week spoke to security professionals who named some of the most popular items for shoplifters.

1 Filet mignon
Luxury meat theft is up by 21 per cent, making grocery stores and markets the most common setting for shoplifting.

2 Jameson
Shockingly, people who love to steal also love to drink. Pricey liquor makes up about 2.9 per cent of stolen merchandise.

3 Electric tools
Shoplifters, though a sneaky breed, are also quite handy. DIY items are the third most popular category for thieves — think electric toothbrushes and power tools.

4 iPhone4
No surprise here — digital gadgets, in general, fly right off the shelves and right into pockets. Apple products are especially popular among shoplifters.

The iSteal phenomenon will see 100,00 laptops shoplifted this year from big-box retailers, according to the AJ Novick Group.

5 Gillette Mach 4 Razor blades
Shoplifters have discerning taste when it comes to a smooth, close shave. Not just any razor blade will do.

The $23 replacement packs and other shaving products make up 2.7 per cent of stolen items.

6 AXE
How dirty shoplifters get clean; for some reason, personal hygiene products like AXE are a hot-ticket item when it comes to theft — you might see them re-sold at flea markets.

METRO NEW YORK

ISTOCK

▶ Nothing beats the thrill of stuffing cold, raw meat down your pants.

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4 sports

Senators preview

Ottawa at Buffalo
7 p.m.
TV: SNET

Ottawa (13-13-4) heads to Buffalo (15-12-2) on a three-game losing skid. Ryan Miller is 2-0-1 since returning from injury and is likely to start after Jhonas Enroth was in net for Saturday's 4-1 loss to the Rangers. Tomas Vanek and Jason Pominville continue to find chemistry together. The two have recorded a point on the same goal 24 times this season. Vanek leads the Sabres with 14 goals, while Pominville has 31 points. Young Buffalo forwards Corey Tropp and Nathan Gerbe both sustained head injuries last week and are out indefinitely.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Scan code for more sports.

Claw. Man

▶ DeMar DeRozan walks away after talking to the media yesterday at the Air Canada Centre in Toronto.

RICHARD LAUTENS/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raptors roster coming together with intense schedule looming

The Raptors held their traditional media day yesterday ahead of what will be a far from traditional season, with 66 games crammed into four months on the heels of the NBA lockout. To bolster his young nucleus of DeMar DeRozan, Ed Davis and Amir Johnson, Raptors general manager Bryan Colangelo has signed veterans Anthony Carter and Rasual Butler to go along with big men Aaron Gray and Toronto native Jamaal Magloire.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Uncertainty surrounds Sid again

Crosby suffers setback ◐ No word on timeline for Pittsburgh star's next return to ice

Sidney Crosby is back on the shelf — his comeback stalled indefinitely with concussion-like symptoms.

"Frustrating, I don't think that even describes it," Crosby told reporters.

Still the Pittsburgh Penguins star looked for positives yesterday, saying he is feeling "much, much better" than he did after being levelled by big hits in successive games Jan. 1 and Jan. 5 that triggered his 10-month absence from the game. He also said he felt worse only a few weeks before the Penguins training camp in mid-September.

"It's much different than previously going through that stuff," Crosby said. "I'm way better off than I was dealing with this stuff 10 months ago or whatever it was."

Still it's a setback for the NHL's biggest star, only three weeks removed from a spectacular comeback.

"I just figured it was better to be cautious here and not take any chances. That's kind of where I'm at right now," Crosby said.

"I'm not happy about watching. But I've got to make sure with these sort of things that I'm careful."

"(Crosby's) been away for so long, and was so happy to be playing with us again. It's been crazy. We've had a full team for only a couple of games."
PENGUINS GOALIE MARC-ANDRE FLEURY

Crosby's comeback appeared to be a success until he experienced headaches following a 3-1 loss to Boston on Dec. 5.

After sitting out a pair of road games as a precaution, Crosby was expected to return to practice yesterday.

Instead he sat out and told reporters that he won't practise or play until he is symptom-free. He wouldn't guess when that might be.

While Crosby absorbed several hits against the Bruins, including an elbow to the head from David Krejci, nothing appeared worrisome.

He developed headaches the next day and the Penguins decided to keep him home for last weekend's two-game road trip. When the headaches persisted throughout the weekend — Crosby acknowledged having symptoms — the Penguins weren't about to let him practise despite the absence of any test revealing a concussion.THE CANADIAN PRESS

5
The season isn't even halfway over, and the Penguins have had five players sidelined by concussions: Sidney Crosby, Zybenek Michalek, Kris Letang Robert Bortozzo and Tyler Kennedy.

NBA addresses concussions

The NBA has put in place a concussion policy that will determine when players return from head injuries.

The protocols went into effect with the start of training camps "for the safety and protection of our players," the league said yesterday.

If a player is diagnosed with a concussion, he will have to complete a series of steps to confirm that he's healthy enough for competition. Once he is free of symptoms, the player must make it through increasing stages of exertion — from a stationary bike, to jogging, to agility work, to non-contact team drills — while ensuring the symptoms don't return after each one. Then the neurologist hired to lead the NBA's concussion program needs to be consulted before the player is cleared.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MLB

Brewers bring in Ramirez

The Milwaukee Brewers agreed to terms with free-agent third baseman Aramis Ramirez yesterday, agent Paul Kinzer told The Associated Press. The Brewers, who expect to lose Prince Fielder in free agency and may be without Ryan Braun if he loses his appeal for testing positive for a banned substance, could use Ramirez, who hit .306 with 26 home runs and 93 RBIs in 2011.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Philadelphia	28	18	7	2	1	101	81	39	8-4-1-1	10-3-1-0	7-3-0-0	W5
d-Boston	28	18	9	0	1	94	59	37	10-6-0-1	8-3-0-0	7-2-0-1	W1
d-Florida	30	16	9	2	3	82	77	37	6-2-1-3	10-7-1-0	5-3-2-0	L2
NY Rangers	27	17	6	1	3	83	60	38	8-2-0-2	9-4-1-1	7-2-0-1	W2
Pittsburgh	30	17	9	2	2	94	75	38	8-2-2-0	9-7-0-2	6-3-1-0	W1
Toronto	**29**	**15**	**11**	**2**	**1**	**91**	**94**	**33**	**6-4-2-1**	**9-7-0-0**	**5-4-1-0**	**L2**
Buffalo	29	15	12	1	1	79	79	32	7-9-1-1	8-3-0-0	3-5-1-1	L1
Washington	28	15	12	0	1	88	89	31	10-4-0-1	5-8-0-0	5-5-0-0	W2
Montreal	30	12	11	2	5	74	77	31	4-5-2-4	8-6-0-1	2-3-2-3	W1
Winnipeg	29	13	12	3	1	82	92	30	9-4-0-0	4-8-3-1	6-3-1-0	L1
Ottawa	30	13	13	2	2	91	105	30	7-6-0-1	6-7-2-1	3-4-2-1	L3
New Jersey	28	14	13	0	1	71	80	29	6-5-0-1	8-8-0-0	4-6-0-0	L1
Tampa Bay	29	12	15	0	2	75	96	26	7-4-0-0	5-11-0-2	3-7-0-0	L1
NY Islanders	27	9	12	4	2	62	88	24	6-7-3-0	3-5-1-2	4-3-2-1	L2
Carolina	31	9	18	2	2	79	108	22	5-9-0-2	4-9-2-0	2-8-0-0	L1

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	GP	W	L	OTL	SL	GF	GA	Pts	Home	Away	Last 10	Strk
d-Minnesota	30	20	7	2	1	79	64	43	10-4-1-0	10-3-1-1	8-2-0-0	W7
d-Chicago	30	18	8	1	3	99	92	40	9-2-0-3	9-6-1-0	6-3-0-1	W2
d-Dallas	28	16	11	0	1	73	78	33	9-4-0-1	7-7-0-0	5-4-0-1	W1
Detroit	28	18	9	1	0	89	62	37	12-2-1-0	6-7-0-0	8-2-0-0	W2
Vancouver	29	18	10	0	1	97	71	37	8-4-0-1	10-6-0-0	9-1-0-0	W4
St. Louis	29	17	9	0	3	71	62	37	11-3-0-1	6-6-0-2	7-2-0-1	W3
Phoenix	29	15	11	1	2	77	76	33	6-6-1-1	9-5-0-1	5-5-0-0	L2
San Jose	27	15	10	2	0	75	64	32	8-6-1-0	7-4-1-0	4-5-1-0	L2
Nashville	29	14	11	3	1	77	79	32	5-5-2-1	9-6-1-0	4-6-0-0	W2
Edmonton	30	14	13	0	3	83	80	31	9-5-0-2	5-8-0-1	4-5-0-1	L1
Calgary	29	14	13	1	1	73	80	30	8-5-1-1	6-8-0-0	6-3-0-1	W3
Los Angeles	29	13	12	2	2	65	67	30	8-9-0-1	5-3-2-1	3-6-1-0	L4
Colorado	30	13	16	1	0	78	91	27	7-9-0-0	6-7-1-0	4-6-0-0	L3
Anaheim	29	8	16	2	3	67	95	21	6-9-1-0	2-7-1-3	2-7-1-0	L2
Columbus	29	8	17	1	3	71	99	20	5-8-1-1	3-9-0-2	3-4-2-1	L2

d — division leaders ranked 1-2-3 regardless of points; a team winning in overtime or shootout is credited with two points and a victory in the W column; the team losing in overtime or shootout receives one point which is registered in the OTL (overtime loss) or SL (shootout loss) column.

Last night's result
New Jersey at Tampa Bay
Sunday's results
Chicago 3 San Jose 2 (OT)
N.Y. Rangers 6 Florida 1
Saturday's results
Calgary 3 Edmonton 0
Montreal 2 New Jersey 1
Vancouver 4 Ottawa 1
Boston 5 Columbus 3
Dallas 2 Los Angeles 1
Detroit 7 Winnipeg 1
Minnesota 4 Phoenix 1
Nashville 3 Anaheim 2
N.Y. Rangers 4 Buffalo 1
Philadelphia 5 Tampa Bay 2
Pittsburgh 6 N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis 1 San Jose 0
Tonight's games
All Times Eastern
Los Angeles at Boston, 7 p.m.
Ottawa at Buffalo, 7 p.m.
Carolina at **Toronto**, 7 p.m.
Dallas at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 7 p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 7 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7 p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Montreal, 7:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Florida, 7:30 p.m.
Calgary at Nashville, 8 p.m.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 8:30 p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Tomorrow's games
Boston at Ottawa, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Phoenix at Anaheim, 10 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	16	23	39
Kessel, Tor	18	18	36
D.Sedin, Vcr	12	22	34
Lupul, Tor	13	20	33
H.Sedin, Vcr	8	25	33
Toews, Chi	17	15	32
Nugent-Hopkins, Edm	13	19	32
Backstrom, Wash	11	21	32
Sharp, Chi	16	15	31
Versteeg, Fla	13	18	31
Ma.Hossa, Chi	12	19	31
Eberle, Edm	11	20	31
Pominville, Buf	10	21	31
P.Kane, Chi	8	23	31
Stamkos, TB	16	14	30
Fleischmann, Fla	12	18	30
Weiss, Fla	11	19	30
Vanek, Buf	14	15	29
Selanne, Ana	9	20	29
Neal, Pgh	17	11	28
Franzen, Det	13	15	28
Kopitar, LA	10	18	28
Malkin, Pgh	10	18	28
Spezza, Ott	9	19	28
Datsyuk, Det	8	20	28
Hartnell, Pha	14	12	26
Seguin, Bos	13	13	26
Smyth, Edm	12	14	26
M.Koivu, Minn	7	19	26
Gaborik, NYR	15	10	25
Vrbata, Phx	14	11	25
B.Richards, NYR	11	14	25
Filpula, Det	10	15	25
Ra.Whitney, Phx	10	15	25
Karlsson, Ott	2	23	25
Michalek, Ott	18	6	24
E.Kane, Wpg	15	9	24
Perry, Ana	12	12	24
Skinner, Car	12	12	24
Jagr, Pha	10	14	24
Benn, Dal	7	17	24
Plekanec, Mtl	6	18	24
B.Campbell, Fla	2	22	24
Lucic, Bos	10	13	23
Briere, Pha	9	14	23
Elias, NJ	9	14	23
Tavares, NYI	9	14	23
Prospal, Clb	7	16	23
J.Thornton, SJ	5	18	23
Parenteau, NYI	4	19	23
Moulson, NYI	14	8	22
Eriksson, Dal	10	12	22
Dupuis, Pgh	9	13	22
St. Louis, TB	9	13	22
C.Smith, Nash	8	14	22
Getzlaf, Ana	6	16	22
M.Bergeron, TB	3	19	22
Callahan, NYR	12	9	21
Pavelski, SJ	12	9	21
Iginla, Cal	11	10	21
Pacioretty, Mtl	11	10	21
Nash, Clb	9	12	21

Not including last night's games

GOLF

WORLD RANKING

Through Dec. 11

1. Luke Donald	ENG	10.29
2. Rory McIlroy	NIR	8.00
3. Lee Westwood	ENG	7.81
4. Martin Kaymer	GER	6.78
5. Adam Scott	AUS	5.66
6. Steve Stricker	USA	5.56
7. Dustin Johnson	USA	5.48
8. Jason Day	AUS	5.23
9. Webb Simpson	USA	5.15
10. Matt Kuchar	USA	4.90
11. Charl Schwartzel	SAF	4.88
12. Nick Watney	USA	4.86
13. Graeme McDowell	NIR	4.72
14. Phil Mickelson	USA	4.68
15. K.J. Choi	KOR	4.46
16. Sergio Garcia	ESP	4.01
17. Justin Rose	ENG	3.99
18. Hunter Mahan	USA	3.90
19. Paul Casey	ENG	3.87
20. Bubba Watson	USA	3.83
21. Alvaro Quiros	ESP	3.79
22. Tiger Woods	USA	3.69
23. Robert Karlsson	SWE	3.68
24. Kyung-Tae Kim	KOR	3.62
25. David Toms	USA	3.61
26. Bill Haas	USA	3.53
27. Bo Van Pelt	USA	3.48
28. Ian Poulter	ENG	3.46
29. Rickie Fowler	USA	3.35
30. Keegan Bradley	USA	3.34
31. Sang-Moon Bae	KOR	3.33
32. Jason Dufner	USA	3.31
33. Simon Dyson	ENG	3.30
34. Anders Hansen	DEN	3.21
35. Zach Johnson	USA	3.21
36. Thomas Bjorn	DEN	3.20
37. Brandt Snedeker	USA	3.19
38. Louis Oosthuizen	SAF	3.18
39. Francesco Molinari	ITA	3.17
40. Fredrik Jacobson	SWE	3.15
41. Peter Hanson	SWE	3.06
42. Geoff Ogilvy	AUS	3.04
43. Miguel Angel Jimenez	ESP	2.98
44. Y.E. Yang	KOR	2.94
45. John Senden	AUS	2.92
46. Darren Clarke	NIR	2.89
47. Martin Laird	SCO	2.87
48. Jim Furyk	USA	2.87
49. Aaron Baddeley	AUS	2.87
50. Ryo Ishikawa	JPN	2.81

NFL

WEEK 14

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

EAST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

SOUTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

NORTH

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

WEST

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	140	296

x-clinched playoff spot; **y**-clinched division
Last night's result
St. Louis at Seattle
Sunday's results
New Orleans 22 Tennessee 17
Baltimore 24 Indianapolis 10
N.Y. Jets 37 Kansas City 10
Detroit 34 Minnesota 28
Houston 20 Cincinnati 19
Jacksonville 41 Tampa Bay 14
Atlanta 31 Carolina 23
Philadelphia 26 Miami 10
New England 34 Washington 27
Arizona 21 San Francisco 19
Denver 13 Chicago 10 (OT)
San Diego 37 Buffalo 10
Green Bay 46 Oakland 16
N.Y. Giants 37 Dallas 34
Thursday's result
Pittsburgh 14 Cleveland 3

SOCCER

ENGLAND

PREMIER LEAGUE

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Man City	15	12	2	1	49	15	38
Man United	15	11	3	1	35	14	36
Tottenham	14	10	1	3	30	18	31
Chelsea	15	10	1	4	33	18	31
Arsenal	15	9	2	4	31	23	29
Liverpool	15	7	5	3	18	13	26
Newcastle	15	7	5	3	21	19	26
Stoke	15	6	3	6	16	24	21
Aston Villa	15	4	7	4	18	19	19
Norwich	15	5	4	6	24	28	19
Swansea	15	4	5	6	16	20	17
Everton	14	5	1	8	15	18	16
QPR	15	4	4	7	15	26	16
Fulham	15	3	6	6	16	18	15
West Brom	15	4	3	8	14	23	15
Sunderland	15	3	5	7	18	18	14
Wolverhampton	15	4	2	9	16	28	14
Wigan	15	3	3	9	14	29	12
Blackburn	15	2	4	9	22	34	10
Bolton	15	3	0	12	20	36	9

Yesterday's result
Chelsea 2 Manchester City 1
Sunday's result
Stoke 2 Tottenham 1
Sunderland 2 Blackburn 1
Saturday's results
Arsenal 1 Everton 0
Bolton 1 Aston Villa 2
Liverpool 1 Queens Park Rangers 0
Manchester United 4 Wolverhampton 1
Norwich 4 Newcastle 2
Swansea 2 Fulham 0
West Bromwich Albion 1 Wigan 2

ITALY

SERIE A

Team	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Juventus	14	8	6	0	25	11	30
Udinese	14	9	3	2	18	7	30
AC Milan	14	8	4	2	31	16	28
Lazio	14	8	4	2	22	11	28
Napoli	14	5	6	3	22	14	21
Palermo	14	6	2	6	16	16	20
Genoa	13	5	3	5	16	16	18
Cagliari	14	4	6	4	12	13	18
Roma	14	5	3	6	16	18	18
Catania	14	4	6	4	15	20	18
Inter Milan	13	5	2	6	16	18	17
Parma	14	5	1	8	15	20	17
x-Atalanta	14	5	7	2	17	16	16
Fiorentina	14	4	5	5	13	13	16
Chievo Verona	14	4	4	6	11	18	16
Bologna	14	4	3	7	13	20	15
Siena	14	3	5	6	14	14	14
Cesena	14	3	3	8	7	15	12
Novara	14	2	5	7	14	25	11
Lecce	14	2	2	10	13	26	8

x — penalized six points in betting scandal.
Yesterday's results
Roma 1 Juventus 1
Sunday's results
Atalanta 1 Catania 1
Bologna 2 AC Milan 2
Cagliari 0 Parma 0
Novara 1 Napoli 1
Udinese 2 Chievo Verona 1
Saturday's results
Inter Milan 2 Fiorentina 0
Lecce 2 Lazio 3
Palermo 0 Cesena 1
Siena 0 Genoa 2
Today's game
Inter Milan at Genoa

TRANSACTIONS

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

DETROIT TIGERS—Failed to offer a contract to 2B Will Rhymes, making him a free agent.
LOS ANGELES ANGELS—Agreed to terms with RHP Jerome Williams on a one-year contract.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Sent SS Pedro Florimon outright to Rochester (IL). Named Gene Glynn manager and Tom Brunansky coach for Rochester; Stu Cliburn pitching coach and Rudy Hernandez coach for New Britain (EL); and Ivan Arteaga pitching coach of Elizabethton (Appalachian).
TORONTO BLUE JAYS—Claimed RHP Jim Hoey off waivers from Minnesota. Sent C Brian Jeroloman and RHP Drew Carpenter outright to Las Vegas (PCL). Designated RHP Jesse Chavez for assignment.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

COLORADO ROCKIES—Agreed to terms with C Ramon Hernandez on a two-year contract.
MILWAUKEE BREWERS—Agreed to terms with SS Alex Gonzalez on a one-year contract.
NEW YORK METS—Claimed RHP Jeremy Hefner off waivers from Pittsburgh. Signed LHP Garrett Olson and C Lucas May to minor league contracts.
PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES—Traded OF Ben Francisco to Toronto for LHP Frank Gailey.
American Association
LINCOLN SALTDOGS—Signed LHP Thomas Palica.

NBA

CHICAGO BULLS—Re-signed F Brian Scalabrine.
CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Re-signed G Anthony Parker. Waived forward J.P. Prince.
DALLAS MAVERICKS—Re-signed F Brian Cardinal.
DETROIT PISTONS—Waived G Richard Hamilton.
MINNESOTA TIMBERWOLVES—Signed F Derrick Williams.
TORONTO RAPTORS—Agreed to terms with G Anthony Carter.

NFL

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS—Fired coach Todd Haley. Named Romeo Crennel interim coach.
MIAMI DOLPHINS—Fired coach Tony Sparano. Named Todd Bowles interim coach.
MINNESOTA VIKINGS—Placed WR Stephen Burton on injured reserve. Signed WR Emmanuel Arceneaux from the practice squad.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Placed LB Jacob Cutrera and DT John McCargo on injured reserve. Signed DT Frank Okam from the practice squad. Released RB Nic Grigsby from the practice squad.

CFL

TORONTO ARGONAUTS—Acquired QB Ricky Ray from Edmonton for QB Steven Jyles, K Grant Shaw and a 2012 first-round draft pick.

NHL

CHICAGO BLACKHAWKS—Assigned F Ben Smith to Rockford (AHL).
NEW JERSEY DEVILS—Activated RW Cam Janssen from injured reserve. Placed D Anton Volchenkov on injured reserve.
NEW YORK ISLANDERS—Sent F Micheal Haley to Bridgeport (AHL).
TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING—Agreed to terms with F Antti Miettinen on a two-year contract. Recalled D Evan Oberg from Norfolk (AHL).

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Argonauts swing deal for Ray

Toronto sends Jyles, kicker, second-overall pick to Edmonton for QB 32-year-old has won two Grey Cups

Ricky Ray is heading East.

The Toronto Argonauts acquired the veteran quarterback from the Edmonton Eskimos for quarterback Steven Jyles, kicker Grant Shaw and the second-overall selection in the 2012 CFL Canadian College Draft.

"Our mission since 2010 has been to build the Argos into a consistent and credible football team," Argos general manager Jim Barker said in a statement. "This trade moves that process along and demonstrates our commitment to re-establishing Argos football in this city. While we gave up a lot, we felt it was important to be aggressive and go after what we needed.

"This trade is an investment by our organization in the future of the Double Blue and in its new on-field leader, Ricky Ray."

Edmonton GM Eric Tillman said he didn't enter the off-season intent on trading Ray. However, he added the Argos' dogged pursuit of the veteran quarterback resulted in a deal that Tillman believes makes the Eskimos younger and improves their Canadian content.

"They were very aggressive," Tillman said. "We were not looking to trade Ricky and were very reluctant to do so."

DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Ricky Ray has been traded to Toronto.

But Jyles won't be handed the Eskimos starting job. Tillman said Jyles will have to compete in training camp for the No. 1 position against veteran Kerry Joseph and youngsters Matt Nichols and Eric Ward.

The Argos will officially introduce their newest addition tomorrow morning in Toronto.

The 32-year-old Ray had spent his entire nine-year CFL career with Edmonton, leading the Eskimos to two Grey Cup championships over that span.

"I would like to thank the Edmonton Eskimos and their fans for nine years of good memories and for giving me the opportunity to play for such a good organization and win a couple of championships," Ray said. "While it's tough to leave all the people who have helped me in my career, I'm excited to move forward, take the next step in my career and come to Toronto, an organization with a rich history and tradition where we will have another chance to win a Grey Cup."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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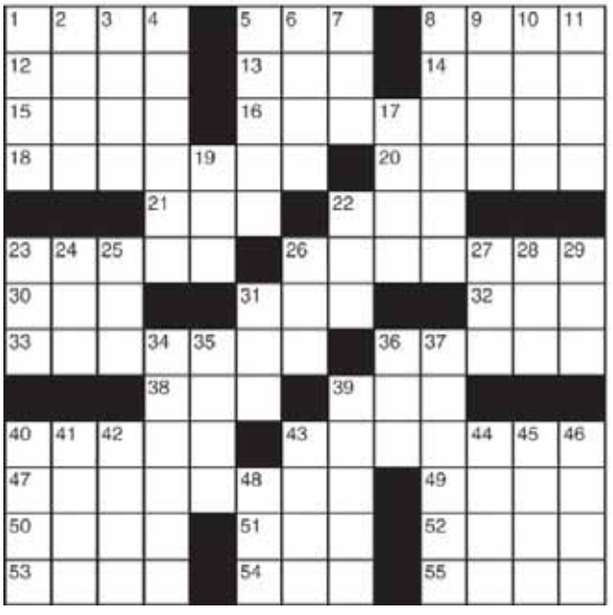
Crossword



Across
1 Double agent
5 Sis' sib
8 Havana's country
12 Pre-diploma hurdle
13 Scarlet
14 October birthstone
15 Withered
16 Firewood supports
18 Humanlike robot
20 Apartment-complex unit
21 Pistol
22 Half-score
23 Rags-to-riches author
26 Moderately slow in music
30 Arthur or Lillie
31 Pismire
32 Physicist Georg
33 Pyrenees principality
36 Refuges
38 Chinese cook's vessel
39 Matterhorn, e.g.
40 Prince William's mother
43 Massachusetts city
47 Pamela or Loni
49 Strong wind
50 Use a teaspoon
51 Blackbird
52 Gaelic
53 Red — (candy)
54 Tiny
55 Kept watch on

Down
1 Small plateau
2 Yoked team
3 Fat
4 Come out
5 Gray matter
6 Tear
7 Peculiar
8 Ring around the sun
9 "Once — a time"
10 Musical combo
11 As well
17 On the rocks
19 "— Town"
22 Explosive letters
23 Lawyers' org.
24 Cariou of Broadway
25 Wander about
26 Literary collection
27 Ph. bk. info
28 Winnie — Pooh
29 Type measures
31 Noah's boat
34 Deed holders
35 Bellow
36 On in years
37 Farthest point in an orbit
39 "Tomorrow" tyke
40 Morse morsel
41 Grooving on
42 Mine entrance
43 Top-notch
44 Change
45 Otherwise
46 Saxophone need
48 Witnessed

▶ Yesterday's answer

S	L	A	V		P	R	Y		O	H	M	S
L	A	C	E		O	N	E		B	O	I	L
O	V	E	N		P	A	T	I	E	N	C	E
B	A	D	E	G	G		I	N	R	O	A	D
			E	R	R	S		N	O	R		
P	A	T	R	I	O	T	S		N	E	I	L
U	G	H		M	U	R	A	L		E	W	E
N	O	R	M		P	A	T	E	R	S	O	N
		E	A	R		P	U	C	E			
S	T	A	T	U	E		R	H	E	S	U	S
P	A	T	T	E	R	E	D		F	I	R	E
A	L	E	E		A	L	A		E	D	G	E
M	E	N	D		S	K	Y		R	E	E	K

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	5		7	6	9		1	
1								9
		7				8		
6	4		5		8		7	1
				9				
9	2		3		1		8	4
		4				1		
7								2
	8		2	1	3		6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

4	6	1	3	9	8	5	2	7
3	8	7	5	4	2	1	9	6
5	2	9	1	7	6	3	8	4
6	3	8	7	2	9	4	1	5
2	7	4	6	1	5	9	3	8
1	9	5	4	8	3	6	7	2
8	1	2	9	6	4	7	5	3
7	5	6	8	3	1	2	4	9
9	4	3	2	5	7	8	6	1

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

To Peaches
Hello — the Peaches I have written to (in vain it seems) probably wouldn't address as "Howdie". Also, he would likely not contact me at all, as is angry & it's complicated. Peaches, AKA Petal. I'm done trying anyway. Sorry for any confusion.
FROM ME

Oi!
Jeez you're cute! I honestly can't say that enough times. Someday I'll be the one planting kisses on those adorable cheeks.
FROM CAPTAIN

Matty
Where have you been? I haven't seen you for 3 days now. I miss seeing your face. I hope to see you tomorrow.
FROM R

Today
2°/-2°
Drizzle
40%
Wednesday
1°/0°
Variable
Know what the weather will be 14 days from now.
Check the 14 day trend.
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Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 The truth must be told and you are the one who must do the telling.
♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Your attitude will harden today and you will refuse to make the changes that others demand.
♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 Spell out what it is you are planning to do over the next few days and make sure everyone knows that you are serious about your ambitions.
♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 Let certain people know that you will no longer do their bidding.
♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You're allowed to change your mind, and you're allowed to change your ambitions too.
♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 It will be easier for you to explain what you have been up to in recent weeks.
♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 You will find it ridiculously easy to get people to do what you desire today.
♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 The best way to win others round to your big idea is to come up with so many facts and figures that they simply cannot deny that you know what you are talking about.
♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 It's time to get serious about something you have been putting off for weeks or months.
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Don't let worries and fears get the better of you.
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 If you cannot handle something alone, ask for assistance.
♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You will find it quite easy to get your message across to employers and other important people today.
SALLY BROMPTON

PETR DAVID JOSEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SETH HARRISON/THE JOURNAL NEWS/AP

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American Silver Coins

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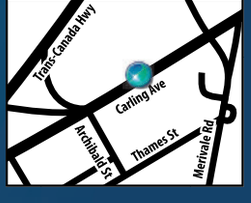

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